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a limited number of phenomena at a time." This theme is developed, for the most part, in the first two chapters. The first gives its title to the work. The second discusses Some Questions of Methodology.

But scientific attainment must find its impulse in some goal of human achievement. This, in the economic field, because of the very materials with which the social scientist deals, speedily shapes itself as an ideal of social advancement. A social view of economic process is, however, by no means a simple one. It calls for repeated illustration. Professor Farnam works out this aspect of his task in the later chapters by drawing on his rich experience in the field of labor legislation and experimentation. Among the chapters developing this idea in a significant way are these: Economic Progress and Labor Legislation, Fundamental Distinctions in Labor Legislation, Purposes of Labor Legislation, Practical Methods in Labor Legislation, Acatallactic Factors in Distribution, and Signs of a Better Social Vision.

The main theme of the work in both its theoretical and illustrative phases is worked out with faithfulness of purpose and unusual delicacy of literary touch.

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The Influence of Monarchs. Steps in a New Science of History.

By FREDERICK ADAMS WOODS. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1913. Pp. xii, 422. \$2.00.)

In *Mental and Moral Heredity in Royalty*, published in 1906, Dr. Woods opened up an important line of investigation which is here worked out on a somewhat more ambitious scale. He proposes to employ the method of exact measurement in treating historical materials. To this method he applies the name "historiometry" and its leading principle he calls "quantitative valuation." Leaving aside the elements of psychic phenomena, like religion, literature, and science, he proceeds to weigh economic and political facts, and, by means of a simple marking system, to estimate the period of a monarch's reign as plus, plus-minus, or minus, according as the condition was one of progress, indifference, or decline. Measuring the monarch by a similar standard, he compares the two sets of markings in order to determine the degree of correlation between monarch and period. In medieval and modern times, superior rulers are found associated with

superior or indifferent periods in some 70 per cent of cases, and the reverse in 10 per cent of cases. The conclusion reached is that the monarch has influenced his age more than the age has influenced the monarch. That this relation is not accidental is proved by the fact that a change of conditions has often followed a change of rulers and also that a royal minority or an inter-regnum has generally reacted perceptibly on the period.

On the question of causation Dr. Woods reiterates the conclusion reached in *Heredity in Royalty*, that modern royalty has been decidedly superior in capacity to the average European, and it must be conceded that, so far as nominal achievement goes, he has made out a fairly good case. This superiority he attributes to superior heredity; indeed, "heredity is the master key of history"; and he proposes to substitute "the gametic interpretation of history" for whatever other theories now hold the field. In a certain sense, therefore, royalty vindicates its own existence and is its own justification; for, inasmuch as history has been a process of natural selection, "in the long struggle for wealth and power, royalty is merely a name applied to those interrelated families that have succeeded in getting and keeping what most men want" (p. 273).

The most obvious objection to Dr. Woods' plan is not, as he seems to imply, the matter of the credibility of historical sources, but the fact that his method of measurement is of necessity too crude for accurate results. But it is not on the matter of method that the most serious question arises, for a method producing even loosely approximate results is better than mere generalization. Several of his conclusions will hardly commend themselves to those of his readers who take the sociological point of view. For instance, to attribute the character of a period to forces, whether individual or social, wholly within the period itself is to neglect the fact that all ages with a distinct character either of progress or decline have been fashioned largely by the antecedent period. Further, it is always a debatable question whether the exceptional individual is not himself largely formed by the influences of his time. In purposely neglecting the cultural factors, also, Dr. Woods commits himself to an extreme form of the materialistic interpretation of history in which he will find few followers, for those factors are often the most potent ones in their influence both on economic and political conditions and on those very exceptional individuals to whom he attributes pre-

dominating importance. Again, the controversy about the relative influence of heredity and environment is not settled quite so decisively as Dr. Woods implies. If instead of environment we read "opportunity," as the late Lester F. Ward so ably interpreted the term, the issue is clearer. Those who hold with Dr. Ward will hardly agree that the nominal achievements of rulers, and particularly of hereditary rulers, necessarily prove superior inherent talent rather than a more favorable theater for that talent.

But despite all objections to his conclusions, which after all do not of necessity invalidate his method, it must be conceded that Dr. Woods has performed a notable achievement in his experiment of introducing the methods of the exact sciences into the study of social phenomena. Whether or not his present results are accepted, it is certain that his method may be used in many branches of the social sciences and that it is one to which economists, sociologists, and historians must give increasing attention.

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Industrial and Commercial Geography. By J. RUSSELL SMITH.
(New York: Henry Holt and Company. 1913. Pp. xii,
914. \$4.00.)

The author's wealth of information, clear statement, attractive style, and keen appreciation of fundamental causes, raise this book to a very high excellence in its special field. He has got as far away as possible from the encyclopedic method that mars so many of the textbooks which claim to deal with commercial geography. It is at once valuable in its presentation of data and thoroughly excellent in its educational stimulus. There is a sense of movement, a pervading yet unobtrusive emphasis of cause and effect which gives the subject a dynamic quality in happy contrast to the purely static presentation of facts which has been so fatal to any real interest in the study of geography in this country. The author is nowhere content merely to state things: he explains developments by reference to underlying causes. The place of the book among the numerous texts which have appeared under the titles of commercial geography, geography of commerce, etc., may perhaps best be indicated by stating that it covers approximately the same ground as part three of Gregory, Keller and Bishop's recent book.